

U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

June 28, 1995

Mr. Vernon L. Hill
Principal Technology Manager
Transmission
Gas Research Institute
8600 West Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631-3562

Dear Mr. Hill:

I wish to thank you and your colleagues for taking time to brief our office on GRI's Clock Spring research. Although I regret not being able to attend everyone has said that the presentation was very worthwhile.

Your effort was all the more valuable because we have not yet filled the void in our materials knowledge that was created by Joe Wolf's passing. Until we do, we will be relying quite heavily on GRI for appropriate evaluation of installations made under the recent Clock Springs general waiver. In this regard, Mr. Furrow said he suggested you let us know GRI's evaluation plan. Although initial evaluations under the waiver are about two years away, I believe we should receive the plan well in advance of implementation to allow sufficient time for review.

On a separate matter, I understand there are many additional companies that wish to participate in the Clock Spring general waiver. Although we have no objection to enlarging the number of participants, some companies may operate intrastate pipelines that come under the jurisdiction of state agencies participating in the state/federal gas pipeline safety program. Where this is the case, our policy is that state agencies initially consider waiver requests, and we act in a review capacity. Therefore, I will advise all participating state agencies that we would have no objection if they grant waivers for the use of Clock Springs consistent with the general waiver we issued to 28 companies and their subsidiaries.

Sincerely,

Cesar DeLeon
Deputy Associate Administrator
for Pipeline Safety

cc: Ted Kinne